

**Howard County Ethics Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Ethics Commission was held on November 4, 2021 via Webex.

Commission Members Present: Charles Fuller, Chair
Joanne Drielak, Vice Chair
Jonathan Kromm
Joseph Markwordt

Absent Commission Member: Jean Xu

Staff Members Present: Kristen Bowen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor, Executive Secretary to the Commission

Chairperson Fuller called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:06 p.m. The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Agenda: The Commission reviewed and approved the proposed Agenda upon a motion by Kromm, seconded by Drielak, passed.
2. Minutes: The Commission reviewed and approved the Minutes from the Open Meeting on August 18, 2021 and upon a motion by Drielak, seconded by Kromm, the minutes passed unanimously.
3. The Commission elected a new Chair and Vice Chair to serve from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. Joanne Drielak was voted in as Chair and Jonathan Kromm as Vice Chair.
4. Attorney Perry discussed with the Commission updates from the State Ethics Commission and updated them regarding the annual certification to the State and the required report to the County Executive and County Council regarding the Commission's activities for 2020.
5. Motion by Markwordt to adjourn Open Meeting and go into Closed Meeting, which was seconded by Kromm and passed unanimously. Open Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:17 p.m. The Commission put on the record that it would not be going back into open session.

Closed Meeting: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of this open session are required to include the following:

Date of Closed Meeting: November 4, 2021

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 6:21 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: Via WebEx

Purpose: To discuss, deliberate, and seek legal advice regarding Advisory Opinion 2021-04 and 2021-05, and approval of Closed Meeting minutes from August 18, 2021 meeting.

Authority to Close: (1) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; (2) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(13): To comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter; and (3) To comply with the Commission's Rules of Procedure set forth in Rule 03.C, "the Commission may be in closed sessions to consider an advisory opinion request to the extent that consideration of the request would necessarily lead to identification of the subject of the request."

Listing of topics discussed: Advisory Opinions 2021-04 and 2021-05: The Commission discussed legal issues related to same and listened to presentations made by requestor.

Persons present: Attorney Perry; Members: Fuller, Drielak, Kromm and Markwordt.

Actions taken: Consulted with counsel and gave directions for final opinions.

Upon motion by Kromm, and seconded by Markwordt, the Commission voted to adjourn the Closed Meeting at 8:04pm.



Kristen Bowen Perry

Executive Secretary

Date Approved: 1-25-2022